

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from said individual with probes that specifically bind under stringent conditions to nucleic acid sequences of a TIM-1 gene;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopy.

2. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises:

contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to one or more of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof; and

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said nucleic acid.

3. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said biological sample comprises nucleic acids specifically amplified with sequences set forth in one or more of SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to the nucleic acid sequence ATGACAACGACTGTTCCA, SEQ ID NO:22, BASES 472-489, encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163; and detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said DNA or mRNA.

5-6. (canceled)

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

8. (previously presented) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of an INS157 polymorphism in TIM-1 by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from such individual with a probe that specifically binds to the nucleic acid sequence ATGACAACGACTGTTCCA, SEQ ID NO:22, bases 472-489, encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163;

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said genomic DNA, mRNA or a transcript thereof; and

analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity wherein said seropositivity in an individual comprising an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

9-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of an INS157 polymorphism in TIM-1 by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163;

wherein the presence of said INS157 polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopy.

21. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

22. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity,

wherein seropositivity in an individual expressing an allele of TIM-1 comprising the amino acid sequence MTTTVP, SEQ ID NO:25, residues 158-163 is indicative of a reduced risk of developing atopy.

23. (currently amended) A method of screening for a human individual's predisposition to atopy, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism in exon 3 by contacting a biological sample comprising DNA or mRNA from said individual with probes that

specifically bind under stringent conditions to ~~a polymorphisms~~ nucleic acid sequences in exon 3 of a TIM-1 gene;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individual's predisposition to develop said atopy.